

5. Notes on Specimens in the Hume Collection of Birds.

By R. BOWDLER SHARPE, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c.—No. 6¹.On some Species of the Genus *Digenea*.

[Received April 3, 1888.]

When arranging the *Muscicapidæ* belonging to the Hume Collection, I laid aside a specimen belonging to the genus *Digenea*, which appeared to me to be new to science, but which I did not like to describe from a single skin. In the Tweeddale Collection, however, I have found another example, and it is so evidently distinct that I no longer hesitate to give a name to the species.

DIGENEA LEUCOPS, sp. n.

Adult. General colour above light olive-brown, with somewhat of an ashy tinge; wing-coverts like the back, the greater series somewhat more ruddy brown externally; bastard-wing, primary-coverts, and quills dusky brown, externally ruddy olive; upper tail-coverts rather more reddish brown than the back; tail-feathers dusky brown, externally reddish brown; crown of head like the back; a white line across the base of the forehead, widening into a large supraloral spot; feathers about the eye washed with ashy grey; lores ashy, as also the feathers round the eye; ear-coverts and cheeks ashy, washed with olive; throat white, the chin and a broad band on each side of the throat black, continued downwards and forming a collar on the fore neck; chest and breast pale ashy, with a slight tinge of olive-brown; abdomen white; sides of body and flanks olive-brown; thighs olive-brown; under tail-coverts white; under wing-coverts and axillaries white; quills below dusky brown, white along the inner web: "bill slaty brown; feet white, tinged fleshy; iris bright dark brown" (*R. G. Wardlaw-Ramsay*). Total length 4·3 inches, culmen 0·45, wing 2·5, tail 1·75, tarsus 0·8.

Hab. Shillong (*J. Cockburn: mus. A. O. Hume*); Karen-nee (*R. G. Wardlaw-Ramsay: mus. Tweedd.*).

At the time of writing the fourth volume of the 'Catalogue of Birds,' I had not seen a specimen of *Digenea submoniliger* of Hume, and I now propose to give a description of this species from the series in the Hume Collection.

DIGENEA SUBMONILIGER.

Adult. General colour above light olive-brown, a little more ruddy brown on the head; wing-coverts like the back, the greater coverts with a slight tinge of ruddy brown externally; bastard-wing, primary-coverts, and quills dusky brown, externally olive-brown, with a very slight ruddy tinge; upper tail-coverts rufous; tail-feathers dark brown, externally rufous; base of forehead, lores, eyebrow, and feathers round eye clear tawny buff; ear-coverts and

¹ See P. Z. S. 1887, p. 470.

cheeks olive-brown, washed with tawny buff, especially on the fore part of the latter; throat entirely white, the sides of it brown like the cheeks; the whole throat encircled by a narrow line of black, very indistinct on the sides of the throat, a little plainer on the fore neck; breast light olive-brown, as also the sides of body, flanks, and thighs; lower breast and abdomen white; under tail-coverts white; under wing-coverts white; axillaries olive-brown, edged with white; quills below dusky brown, ashy or buffy whitish along the inner edge. Total length 4·7 inches, culmen 0·5, wing 2·45, tail 1·6, tarsus 0·75.

I may at the same time take the opportunity of describing a second new species from Perak:—

DIGENEA MALAYANA, sp. n.

Adult male. Similar to *D. moniliger* in the rufous appearance of the wing, and deep olive-brown on the back like that species. It differs from it in having rufous cheeks and ear-coverts, and in the forehead, lores, and eyebrow being deep orange-rufous, almost chestnut in tint. Total length 4·5 inches, culmen 0·5, wing 2·65, tail 1·85, tarsus 0·75.

Hab. Mountains of Larut, Perak.

From *Digenea submoniliger* this species differs not only in the reddish colour of the wings, but in the rufous on the head and the orange of the lores and eyebrow.

The following is a revised “Key to the species” of *Digenea* (cf. Cat. B. iv. p. 458):—

- a. Olive-brown above; breast and sides of body olive-brown.
 - a'. Base of forehead tawny buff or rufescent.
 - a''. Outer aspect of quills rufescent.
 - a'''. Ear-coverts ashy olive-brown; eyebrow tawny buff... *moniliger*.
 - b'''. Ear-coverts rufous brown; eyebrow and lores orange-rufous *malayana*.
 - b''. Outer aspect of quills olive-brown, scarcely different from the back; lores and eyebrow tawny buff; ear-coverts brown, with a ruddy tinge *submoniliger*.
 - b'. Base of forehead and lores white *albifrons*.
- b. Rufous-brown above and also on the breast and sides of body; eyebrow and lores deep chestnut; sides of face also chestnut. *solitaria*.

The very peculiar coloration of these birds and their constant black necklace on the throat makes me doubt whether they should be united to *Digenea*, in which the mode of colour is so different. They might, perhaps, be fairly separated as *Anthipes*, in which case they would have to be called *A. moniliger*, *A. malayana*, *A. submoniliger*, *A. albifrons*, and *A. solitaria*.

May 1, 1888.

Professor Flower, C.B., LL.D., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

Col. Irby, F.Z.S., exhibited, on behalf of Lord Lilford, a specimen of *Aquila rapax* from Southern Spain, being, as he believed, the first positively authentic specimen of this species of Eagle obtained within the limits of the Peninsula.

Prof. Flower, C.B., LL.D., F.R.S., exhibited and made remarks on a specimen of a Japanese Domestic Cock, with enormously elongated tail-coverts, the longest of which measured nine feet in length. The specimen had been presented to the British Museum by Mr. F. D. Parker.

The following papers were read :—

1. General Remarks on the Zoology of the Solomon Islands, and Notes on Brenchley's Megapode. By C. M. WOODFORD, F.Z.S.

[Received April 30, 1888.]

The Solomons are a group of large islands situated about 500 miles east of New Guinea, and are included by Wallace in his Anstro-Malayau subdivision of the Australian Region. Zoologically they are most interesting, as they form the extreme eastern limit of the extension of Marsupials.

As might be expected, the group is not particularly rich in Mammals ; but several species of frugivorous and insectivorous Bats occur. Many of these are peculiar to the group, my own collections having added three new genera and five species to the list, besides three new species of *Mus*. Marsupials are represented by one, and perhaps two, species of *Cuscus*, *Cuscus orientalis* being common. I was once told by a native, who had been to Queensland, and who consequently should have known Wallabies when he saw one, that Wallabies are to be found in the mountains of Guadalcanar ; but I am inclined to doubt the information, and my offer of a very large amount of "trade" for the whole or any part of a Wallaby from that island met with no response.

The Birds of the Solomons are extremely interesting. Several species of fruit-eating Pigeons and of the smaller *Ptilopus* occur commonly. The wide-ranging Nicobar Pigeon (*Caloenas nicobaricus*) is frequently met with, and is not afraid to venture considerable distances from land. On my last visit to the group one flew on board and settled for some seconds, when we were distant forty miles to the westward of Renual Island—an outlying island that can